



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of April 5, 2018

Board Members: Lucy Murray-Brown, Ann Coyne, Ted Robitaille, and Beverly Sealey.

City Staff: CPD Commissioner Branville Bard, Superintendent Christine Elow, Chief Administrative Officer Andrea Brown, Executive Secretary Brian Corr, and Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa.

Chair Coyne called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comment

There were 8 members of the public were present.

- Ben Sabath of Boston, commented on police brutality, Black Lives Matter, white supremacy, settler colonialism, the Israeli occupation of Palestine and how it is connected to struggles of people of color in the United States.
- David Spivak of Somerville, commented on an April 13 arrest, stating that from what he understood an individual in a drug-induced psychosis was punched in the stomach 5 times. Mr. Spivak stated he believed race was involved because he could not imagine it would have happened to a White person in a drug-induced state.
- Rosalie Belanger-Rioux of Somerville commented that CPD must protect everybody, no matter their race. Ms. Belanger-Rioux teaches at Harvard and stated that she and her students are feeling unsafe. Ms. Belanger-Rioux demanded that CPD make a timeline with clear steps of changes so this kind of incident does not happen again.
- Adam Seidel of Cambridge, commented on the arrest of April 13 and suggested that race played a role in the police officers' decision-making. Mr. Seidel provided an anecdote about when he was in high school with a group of kids throwing eggs, but the only one arrested was his friend who was Black. Mr. Seidel stated that he believes there is a history of discriminatory treatment of African Americans in Cambridge by the police.
- Joshua Stadlan of Cambridge stated that he is member of the Cambridge Human Rights Commission, commented that CPD's response divides thinking into categories about whether something falls within protocol or training, but is insufficient to address broader societal issues that disproportionately affect communities of color, including incarceration and that majority of people in prison have some form of mental illness.
- Demarquin Johnson of Cambridge, commented that the most important elements of civilian oversight are accountability or transparency. Mr. Johnson summarized information he received from his conversations with various Cambridge officials, that he supported an external review of policies, and that he does not believe there is transparency or accountability in Cambridge.

Board Member Sealey moved that the Board close public comment. The motion was seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown and approved unanimously. Public comment ended at 6:25 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of March 28, 2018, meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Board Member Sealey, seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown.

Executive Secretary's Report

Exec. Sec. Corr stated there are 9 applicants seeking the vacancy for PRAB. The closing date is April 9, 2018. Board Member Murray-Brown and Board Member Robitaille are both available during the same timeframe to be on an interview panel. It is a 5-year term.

Exec. Sec. Corr has remained in touch with the Baltimore Civilian Oversight Taskforce (COTF) created as part of the U.S. Department of Justice Consent Decree to reform the Baltimore Police Department. The City of Baltimore brought NACOLE Board members Susan Hutson (Independent Police Monitor for New Orleans) and Gia Irlando (Community Ombudsman for Denver) to present at a community summit organized by the COTF as part of the. NACOLE continues to collaborate with the COTF with the support of OSI-Baltimore.

Exec. Sec. Corr has been in conversation with the Springfield, Mass. Community Police Hearing Board. Exec. Sec. Corr has met both the Mayor's Chief of Staff and the head of Springfield Police Dept. Training Academy this year, and hopes to meet with the Police Hearing Board.

Exec. Sec. Corr attended National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Region One Conference: Police, Academia, & Community in Problem Solving on Saturday, April 7 in New York City. The training sessions included issues of racism and police accountability, body-worn cameras and the keynote panel.

Exec. Sec. Corr also went to New Orleans for the National Police Peer Intervention Executive Leadership and Training Conference. The two-day EPIC Conference was jointly done by the New Orleans Police Dept. (NOPD), the Southern Poverty Law Center and Loyola University Law School as part of the DOJ Consent Decree with NOPD. The conference was open to law enforcement leadership and the compliance officers, court-appointed monitor, and civilian oversight professionals. NOPD presented on their Bystander Intervention Program developed by Prof. Ervin Staub of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Staub is a Holocaust survivor and has studied genocide, trauma, and bystander intervention in Rwanda and Bosnia.

Exec. Sec. Corr has been invited to present at the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (CACOLE) Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba as part of the annual international panel, along with participants from Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Professional Standards Unit Report

CAO Brown shared a number of updates from the CPD:

- CPD participated in the second Open Mosque Day with first responders. On this day, participating mosques open their doors to the public.
- The second round of interviews for the Deputy Superintendent vacancy has happened with the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and Personnel. There is a Promotional Ceremony for a new Lieutenant and Sergeant.
- The Commissioner is also in the process of organizing a new unit called Procedural Justice.
- CPD is a new member to the Regional Investigation Task Force, which includes Somerville, Boston, Everett, and Chelsea.
- Commissioner Bard presented at the National League of Cities regarding marijuana policy.
- Jared Stanley, CPD's PARI Recovery Coach, is located on the first floor at CPD headquarters to provide direct services to active drug users. CPD made public service announcements for the public to get to know Jared Stanley.
- Commissioner Bard continues his Coffee with the Commissioner public outreach conversations on Saturdays April 14 and April 28.
- CPD will be participating in the Door-to-Door Campaign with the Community Engagement Team, and other human service programs outreaching to Rindge Tower, New Town Court, and Putnam Gardens. The Door-to-Door Campaign is an initiative put on by the Department of Human Service Program to inform communities who may be underserved. Board Member Murray-Brown asked if PRAB is mentioned as a resource during the campaign and suggested adding it to CPD's talking points.
- CPD will also be participating in Take Back Day at the end of April, a national day where prescription drugs can be discarded safely.
- Board Member Robitaille asked CAO Brown about the device seen at CPD during the tour of the Special Investigations Unit. Board Member Robitaille believed it to be a Sting Ray. CAO Brown explained that the device seen on the date of the tour was not a Sting Ray. CAO Brown confirmed that CPD does not have that technology.

Discussion with Commissioner Bard

Commissioner Bard summarized the facts of the incident that occurred on April 13. Commissioner Bard explained that CPD received numerous phone calls about someone naked walking in the middle of the Massachusetts Avenue that Friday night. Commissioner Bard was informed of the incident because force was used to subdue the individual. Commissioner Bard reviewed how the incident unfolded and described the force used during the incident. Specifically, Commissioner Bard described that once on the scene, the officers were informed that the individual had taken a hallucinogenic drug, and the officers determined that the individual needed to be taken into custody and taken to a medical facility. The officers spent a number of minutes conversing with him in an attempt to

have him come voluntarily, the end of incident was shown in a widely circulated video. After the individual clenched his fists and began moving toward one of the three officers at the scene. At this point, the individual was taken down to the ground when one officer tackled the individual from behind and the officer in front of the individual broke the individual's fall, caught him, and laid him to the ground. Commissioner Bard stated that it required three officers to restrain the individual, because once he was on the ground, the individual opined his arms underneath himself and could not be handcuffed for transport. An officer employed five strikes onto the individual to get the individual's arms out from under him and the officer stopped when he determined it was ineffective. Another officer was then able to use his baton for that purpose and the individual was handcuffed and transported to the hospital.

Commissioner Bard explained that he will review all evidence regarding the incident and that he will ensure there is a fair and thorough investigation. Commissioner Bard stated that the individual's race was not the reason police engaged with him at the time of the incident. Commissioner Bard reiterated that CPD had received numerous calls from the public regarding the naked individual in the street. Commissioner Bard concluded by answering the Board's additional clarifying questions regarding the case.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

Board Member Murray-Brown moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.